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03533/LH Attorney Docket No.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

S. NAKAGAWA : Applicant

10/655,354 Serial No.

September 3, 2003 Filed

MICROSCOPIC IMAGE CAPTURE APPARATUS For

AND MICROSCOPIC IMAGE CAPTURING

METHOD

Art Unit 2872

ARNEL C. LAVARIAS Examiner

Customer No.: 01933

RESPONSE- 37 C.F.R. 1.111

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed November 26, 2004, the term for response to which expires on December 26, 2004.

ELECTION

Applicant hereby elects Species 1, for further prosecution on the merits, without traverse.

CLAIMS READABLE ON ELECTED SPECIES

The claims readable on elected Species 1 are claims 1-5, 9-14, 18 and 19.

The Examiner indicated that claims 18-19 appear to be Therefore, it is respectfully generic among species 1-3.

CERTIFICATE OF PACSIMILE TRANSMISSION TO NO. 1-703-872-9306

TOTAL PAGES: I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, on the date noted below.

Nalini P. Sahadco

Dated: December 21, 2004

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by credit card payment, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper to Account No. 06-1378.

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requested that claims 18 and 19 be examined along with claims 1-5 and 9-14.

It is respectfully requested that prosecution on the merits now proceed on the basis of the election set forth above.

It is respectfully submitted that this submission is fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

December 21, 2004

Leonard Holtz, Esq. Reg. No. 22,974

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